



SARAWAK DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 2016





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INTRODUCTION

SDI was established on 2 November 1995. It is registered as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital under the Companies Act 1995, Malaysia. As an autonomous non-profit research institute, it is entrusted to undertake interdisciplinary research on pertinent development issues related to the state and nation for policy inputs to the government and private organisations/clients.

OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of SDI is to provide independent and objective inputs to complement the policy and decision making process in Sarawak.

The specific objectives are to :

- ▶ Undertake interdisciplinary research for policy inputs to the government and other clients;
- ▶ Provide an avenue for professionals and other practitioners to discuss, exchange views and opinions facing the state and nation through conferences, seminars, workshops, dialogues and lectures;
- ▶ Disseminate information, knowledge and findings to the public through both formal and informal channels; and
- ▶ Network with other institutions with similar interests, in and outside Malaysia to facilitate the flow of information and knowledge.

The priority focus areas are :

- ▶ Public Policy
- ▶ Development Studies
- ▶ Socio-economic Studies



OUR AIM



Vision

To be a leading research institution in the region



Mission



To offer comprehensive professional research services that provide valuable inputs to planners and policy makers



To offer professional management services for conferences/seminars and generate reports and recommendations for public policy input and knowledge oriented publications



To contribute to and complement the policy and decision making process in Sarawak

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT



SDI's role through the past two decades has been to assist the State to examine, assess and seek solutions to the many development issues and concerns faced both in the rural and urban sector. This has been fulfilled via its dual roles as a research institution and providing the platform for intellectual discourse and generation of ideas.

In 2016 SDI continued to play this role particularly in the State's rural and urban transformation initiatives. The Seminar on Addressing the Manpower Needs of the Oil Palm Industry in Sarawak was one of such collaborations with the government to examine the manpower needs and challenges facing this industry as it is one of the state's key sector and 10 priority industries. Of great concern is the financial loss of between RM1 to RM3 billion suffered by the government and the industry due to the shortage of fieldworkers. It is hoped that the recommendations derived from the seminar will prove useful to the industry.

Another collaboration that should be mentioned was the Workshop on Sarawak Rural Economic Transformation which aimed not only to understand the critical issues and factors, but also the key commodities, industries and economic activities that could drive the transformation of the rural economic sector. A change in mindset among all players i.e. policy makers, planners, implementers, the business sector and

rural communities is thus crucial to make this transformation happen.

Simultaneously, while we seek transformation of the economy, we should be conscious as well of the need to ensure society and our communities are able to adapt to the changes brought about by such transformation. In the Roundtables on Social Transformation Framework, which was a follow-up to workshops and a conference held on the same subject matter, a State Framework on Social Transformation which covers 10 pillars: Family Institution, Housing, Social Harmony, Public Safety, Social Responsibility, Social Space and Infrastructure, Environmental Sustainability, Social and Health Protection, Capacity Building and Good Governance, was put up to the State Government.

Our members have continued to play their role last year in this intellectual discourse through the Brown Bag Talks such as *Gen Y in higher education institutions and at work* by Associate Professor Dr. Ting Su Hie; *Measuring Tourist Experience for Homestay Tourism in Sarawak* by Associate Professor Dr. Voon Boo Ho; and *The Changing Health Factors and Conditions in Sarawak seen through the Lens of the Past 100 years of Biomedical Research* by YBhg. Datu Dr. Andrew Kiyu. There were also two other public talks on current and local international issues. My appreciation to everyone.

While we engage in rural and urban transformation which brings about social transformation of our society, we must also be mindful of the social trends happening in the State to guide us in our planning. The Sarawak Social Trends Report 2005-2015 is a comprehensive and holistic trend analysis to give us a 'snapshot' of the social issues prevailing in the State over the past 11 years, as well as to provide an evidence-based reference for further policy planning and action. This research project will also help identify issues that are of major concern, weaknesses and gaps in social policy, and recommend best practices for implementation.

Another research project which aims to evaluate how impactful the State has been in bringing about change in the lives of our communities is the Impact Study of 1Azam Programme. The programme has not been properly evaluated since its inception in 2011. This project will take the form of a process and post evaluation of the programme, and will cover co-ordinating and implementing agencies apart from participants of the programme.

Related to the pillars of the Social Transformation Framework is our upcoming study on the Urban Poor with Disabled Family Members in Kuching. This study aims among others to identify and examine the problems faced by poor households with disabled members, the

types of disabilities and access to rehabilitative programmes, coping mechanisms of other household members, and their access to services and opportunities. This study will yield useful information for the relevant authorities to improve their current policies and action plans to effectively address the problems faced by this target group.

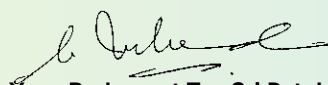
Operating as the secretariat to the Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak, SDI together with The Champions went full fledge to organise the MakanMakan series during the festivals of the different ethnic groups. The aim was to share on the various customs and traditional practices during these festivals to bring about better understanding, and to foster greater unity and social harmony among our diverse communities. Four MakanMakan comprising MakanMakan Chinese New Year, MakanMakan Gawai, MakanMakan Raya Aidilfitri and MakanMakan Deepavali were organised throughout 2016. Another notable event was Camp United 2016, held the second time around for youth from Sarawak, Sabah, Peninsular Malaysia, and 13 other countries.

To SDI's Board of Directors, my utmost gratitude for your untiring commitment last year. All Thinking Working Groups, members, partners and collaborators, thank you for your unwavering support to the work in SDI. To the management and staff, your hard work is always appreciated.

On behalf of SDI, I wish to record also my deepest appreciation and gratitude to our Patron, His Excellency Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Governor of Sarawak, the late Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Adenan Haji Satem, Chief Minister of Sarawak and the State Government for their staunch support of our work.

Last but not least, our thanks to all government agencies, international partners, organisations, sponsors and the local media for their kind support and trust in our activities and programmes.

Thank you.



**Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji
Mohamad Morshidi Abdul Ghani**
Chairman of Sarawak Development Institute

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chairman
**Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji
Mohamad Morshidi Abdul Ghani**
State Secretary of Sarawak



Deputy Chairman
YBhg. Datu Haji Ismawi Haji Ismuni
*Deputy State Secretary
(Socio-economic Transformation)*



Director
YBhg. Datu Jaul Samion
*Deputy State Secretary
(Rural Transformation)*



Director
YBhg. Datu Haji Chaiti Haji Bolhassan
*Special Administrative Officer
Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture
& Rural Economy Sarawak*



Director
YBhg. Datu Dr. Ngenang Janggu
*Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture
& Rural Economy Sarawak*



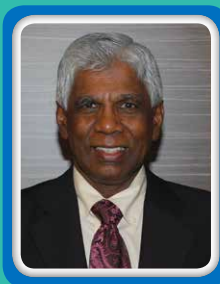
Director
Tuan Haji Soedirman Aini
*General Manager
Sarawak Economic Development
Corporation (SEDC)*



Director
YBhg. Datu Ik Pahon Joyik
*Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Sarawak*



Director
Encik William Patrick Nyigor
*Director
State Human Resource Unit
Chief Minister's Department Sarawak*



Director
Dr. Abdul Rahman Deen
*Director
Workforce Development Unit
Chief Minister's Department Sarawak*

THINKING WORKING GROUPS

Development Studies

CHAIRMAN

YBhg. Datu Jaul Samion
Deputy State Secretary
(Rural Transformation)

MEMBERS

YBhg. Datu Dr. Ngenang Janggu
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Modernisation
of Agriculture & Rural Economy
Sarawak

Ms. Aishah Edris
Freelance Consultant

Mr. William Jitab
Retired

Mr. Joseph Blandoi
Deputy General Manager
and Chief Operating Officer
SALCRA Jaya Sdn. Bhd.

Mr. Ahmad Denney Ahmad Fauzi
Head, Rural Economy Division
Ministry of Modernisation
of Agriculture & Rural Economy
Sarawak

Mr. Jiram Sidu
Principal Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Modernisation
of Agriculture & Rural Economy
Sarawak

Public Policy

CHAIRMAN

**YBhg. Datu Haji Ismawi
Haji Ismuni**
Deputy State Secretary
(Socio-economic Transformation)

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Dr. Abdul Rahman Deen
Director
Workforce Development Unit
Chief Minister's Department
Sarawak

MEMBERS

Prof. Dr. Lau Seng
Director
Centre for Water Research
Institute of Biodiversity and
Environmental Conservation
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

Mr. Abdul Kadir Zainuddin
Director
Finance and Administration Division
State Financial
Secretary's Office

Dr. Ahi Sarok
Head of Department
Publication Division
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

Socio-economic Studies

CHAIRMAN

YBhg. Datu Ik Pahon Joyik
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture
Sarawak

MEMBERS

Mr. William Patrick Nyigor
Director
State Human Resource Unit
Chief Minister's Department
Sarawak

Madam Norjanah Razali
Principal Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Industrial and Entrepreneur
Development Sarawak

Ms. Aishah Edris
Freelance Consultant

Prof. Dr. Spencer E. Sanggin
Professor
Faculty of Social Sciences
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

SECRETARIAT



Visiting Senior Research Fellow



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdul Motalip bin Abdullah
Lecturer
Faculty of Social Sciences, UNIMAS

From left to right (1st row)

Evelette Robin, Nur Asmida Arzmi, Lelia Sim, Rosalind Wong, Patricia Nayoi

From left to right (2nd row)

Kamaruddin Sajeli, Ralph Balan Langet, Alan Teo, Tang Tze Lee, Khairul Anam Khalid, Abdul Khalik Putit

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, FORUMS & TALKS



30
March 2016

Seminar on Addressing the Manpower Needs of the Oil Palm Industry in Sarawak 2016

Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching

This seminar was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Land Development Sarawak with the objectives to gather industry players to exchange ideas and share information on issues and challenges facing the industry; to inform the oil palm industry players on the current labour situation affecting the industry; to identify the root causes of labour-related problems; and to propose practical and viable short and long term win-win solutions for the industry to adopt.

Five papers covering labour issues and concerns, and experience sharing were presented by Labour Department, SALCRA, Sarawak Oil Palm Planters' Association, Dayak Oil Palm Planters' Association, Sime Darby Plantations Sdn Bhd and Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia. A key issue identified during the seminar was the acute financial loss due to shortage of manpower. It was reported that the government lost RM1 billion a year due to uncollected palm oil fresh fruit bunches (FFBs) with the shortage of harvesters in the industry. The plantation industry itself estimated a revenue loss of RM2.8 billion due to the shortage of 59,326 field workers in Sarawak in 2015. Due to the labour shortage and increase in the recruitment cost for foreign workers, the industry is expected to increase wages particularly for the recruitment of local workers.

There is also a high dependency on foreign workers in elementary occupations for plantations. The plantation sector in Sarawak employed a total of 103,095 workers in 2015; 78% of them are foreigners, while locals (including those



from Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia) make up only 22%. Overall, it was also estimated that labour cost accounts for 30% of production cost for the industry. Other key issues identified were low productivity by local workers and attitude problem, high cost involved in recruiting labour for the oil palm business, difficulty in retaining/preventing foreign workers from absconding, poor perception of locals on 3D jobs and bureaucracy issues related to the hiring process. From smallholder planters, key issues faced related to labour was the inability to hire foreign workers without land titles as most of their oil palm are planted on native customary (NCR) land. Besides that, they also faced fierce competition for both foreign and local labour from other sectors. Without land titles, the smallholder planters also faced difficulty in obtaining funding for their business.

Some of the recommendations proposed include improving the conditions of employment such as the working environment; work schedule; remuneration; developing a part time and seasonal system to suit the needs of local employees and the seasonal demands; reviewing the wages for local workers; reviewing existing rules and regulations on hiring foreign workers by smallholders without land titles; providing modular training for school leavers particularly as harvesters; and reviewing the cooling period for rehiring foreign workers as it affects the productivity of the plantations. About 130 participants from government agencies, departments, plantations and associations attended the seminar.





**23-24
May 2016**

Roundtable on Social Transformation Framework Imperial Hotel Kuching

The roundtables on the ten pillars under the Social Transformation Framework were organised as a follow up to the Workshop on Social Transformation Framework organised in 2014 with the Social Development Council, Ministry of Social Development Sarawak. The ten pillars are Family Institution, Housing, Social Harmony, Public Safety, Social Responsibility, Social Space and Infrastructure, Environmental Sustainability, Social and Health Protection, Capacity Building and Good Governance.

Prior to the roundtables session, a discussion with the facilitators was held to refine the scopes and the objectives of the pillars. During the roundtables session, the participants for each pillar was tasked to refine, review and propose



new issues for the respective pillars. The participants also updated the key issues, strategies and action plans for the pillars assigned.

YBhg. Datu Misnu Haji Taha, Deputy State Secretary for Admin, Security and Corporate Affairs, who spoke at the closing ceremony highlighted the need for the strategies to be in synergy with each other as well as to be implementable. He acknowledged it was the hardest task to come up with a simple strategy that will meet the needs of the intended aim.

The two days' roundtables were attended by about 120 participants from the government and private sector as well as NGOs.

BROWN BAG TALKS



3
August 2016

Gen Y in higher education institutions and at work

*by Associate Professor Dr. Ting Su Hie, Lecturer,
UNIMAS, AZAM Conference Room*

The presentation was based on research findings on Gen Y studying in universities or polytechnic as well as those at the workplace. The research was carried out involving a total of 440 youth. Out of that, 377 were students, with 187 from polytechnic and 253 from the university and 63 were working youth.

The findings stated that students expect a shared responsibility from their lecturers to ensure they are successful in their studies. They expect interesting lectures as well as readily available reference materials. Dr. Ting also mentioned that Gen Y students are highly feedback-oriented and they expect constant and instant feedback. These students also usually overrate their own capability. Another finding on Gen Y students was they expect flexibility and leniency from their lecturers i.e. giving them a second chance or extending deadlines for assignment submissions.

At the workplace, she highlighted that the Gen Y workers' expectations were to work in teams, to be given gentle



coaching and guidance by employers, expect fast career advancement and low expectations for their work output. However, the employers expected the Gen Y workers to be independent and to sacrifice their personal time to complete work beyond office hours, and to complete individual work assignment rather than working in a team.

Dr. Ting concluded the presentation by discussing and getting feedback on how employers managed the different work culture of their Gen Y staff. It was agreed that the line has become blur where younger staff expect the employer to adopt a parent's role by providing guidance and encouragement in their work. It was a consensus that employers need to adapt to Gen Y's work culture but within limits. It was also acknowledged that Gen Y given the right incentive and guidance can be very productive employees.

23

August 2016

Measuring Tourist Experience for Homestay Tourism in Sarawak

by Associate Professor Dr. Voon Boo Ho, Lecturer, UiTM, AZAM Conference Room

Currently, there is no scientific tool available to measure tourist experience or satisfaction on tourism products. Measuring tourist experience is about measuring the services rendered. The characteristics of service are seen as inseparable from providers, intangible, variable and perishable. He also shared that tourist perceived service quality from the aspects of reliability, responsiveness, tangible (appearance), assurance, empathy, technical and functional management.

He also highlighted on their research process on coming up with the measuring tool. There are 8 dimensions namely culture, guide service, food and beverages, environment, accessibility, accommodation, services and accessibility used to measure tourist experience and satisfaction. A total of 32 variables were covered under these 8 dimensions.

Some of the comments made by the participants were on the need to get data from licensed and registered homestay operators only and to follow the ASEAN Homestay standard which has 9 criteria and 91 variables. There were 32 registered homestays with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia in 2014.

6

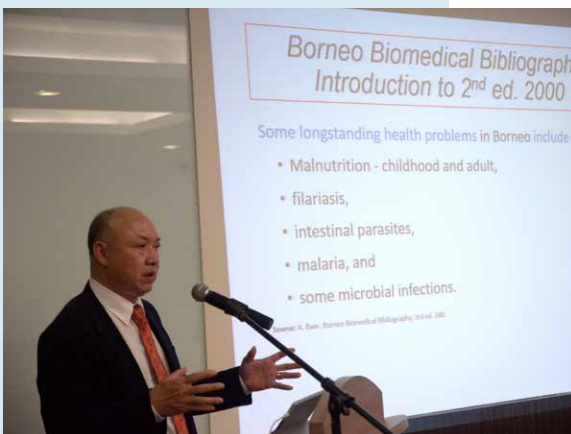
October 2016

The Changing Health Factors and Conditions in Sarawak seen through the Lens of the Past 100 years of Biomedical Research

by YBhg. Datu Dr. Andrew Kiyu, Consultant Epidemiologist, Sarawak Health Department, AZAM Conference Room

The presentation was full of interesting facts and anecdotes from research papers and publications dating back to 1915 until 2015. The presentation offered glimpses into the determinants of health, health and disease conditions, and health status and how they have changed over the past 100 years. Some of the longstanding health problems in Borneo include malnutrition in children and adults, filariasis, intestinal parasites, malaria, and some microbial infections. The compilation of the 100 biomedical researches was grouped into eleven themes namely health care system delivery, indigenous health, nutrition and iodine deficiency disorders, environmental health, virus infections, bacterial infections, parasitic infections, cancer, cardiovascular research, esoterica and plants.

Some of the highlights were on the iodine deficiency issue among indigenous communities especially Iban, high cases of tetanus noenatorum among the Iban due to cutting off umbilical cord with unsterilized bamboo splinters, survey on household items among Penans, and parachuting cats into Borneo to address a side effect chain reaction issue caused by the usage of DDT by World Health Organisation to fight malaria in the 1950s.



PUBLIC TALK



30
May 2016

South China Sea: The Way Forward

*by Dr. Carla Freeman, SAIS Foreign Policy Institute, USA,
Bilik Gerakan Negeri, Wisma Bapa Malaysia*

This talk was organised in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy Kuala Lumpur where Dr. Carla gave a detailed background and information on the South China Sea, which is the most contested sea disputes affecting the Southeast Asian Countries in the region. The talk was attended by more than 70 participants from government departments and agencies, foreign embassies, communities' associations, and institutes of higher learning

She highlighted the significance of the contested areas to China both historically and economically. Therefore, she warned that the danger was real and all the countries have to tread carefully over their claims to avoid any miscalculation. She envisaged a strong and visionary leadership from ASEAN was crucial to negotiate with China to resolve these

claims peacefully. As a way forward, it was necessary for those stakeholders to find common areas to agree on such as preservation of environment of the areas to conserve the fisheries and corals. The current development of the areas has greatly damaged the environment and is causing irreversible environmental damages to the marine ecosystem.

During the discussion, questions were asked on why China was being so assertive on claiming and contesting the claims made by other ASEAN countries. According to Dr. Freeman, there were three possible reasons; one was the time factor where China had to make her stand on the matter after being silent and on standby mode for decades; to spur and support its economic development strategy as these strategic islands were crucial trade and shipping routes; and Japan's assertion on islands at East China Sea which prompted China to declare or make her interest clear on these issues facing the region.

Questions were also raised on the U.S. role in mitigating potential conflict from this and curbing China's risky behaviour in the region. Dr. Freeman explained the United States has always adopted no interference on sovereignty disputes and conducted multilateral approaches to the issue. The U.S. military has always operated under the Freedom of Navigation and no prior consent was required to carry out its military exercises. That definitely created a greater tension with China. It was her personal opinion that U.S. military should adopt a more subtle way to conduct their military exercise so as not to exacerbate the tension. She also did not see U.S. playing an active role in advising the ASEAN leaders on the issues. The ASEAN leaders have to come together on this matter but the U.S. can act as a broker in the negotiation with China. One of the potential ideas was for the civil society organisations on environmental issues to work with their counterparts in the ASEAN countries and China to address the environmental issues in South China Sea.



Protecting Sarawak's Children from Abuse

by Ms. Gill Raja, Former Lecturer, UNIMAS,
Bilik Gerakan Negeri, Wisma Bapa Malaysia

In her presentation, Gill shared on definitions of abuse, types of abuse, the laws and measures associated with children's abuse and new platforms where children get abused. She stressed the need to go deeper to understand the dynamics of abuse in order to plan concerted efforts to address this phenomenon. Based on her 20 years' experience as a social worker, she believed that Malaysia and Sarawak in particular need to step up in terms of prevention strategies, support system and capacity building for government officers and the NGOs working with children and family. She also stressed the need for collaboration, coordination and effective communication between all stakeholders in order for everyone to play their role. The talk was attended by over 150 people from government departments and agencies, schools, communities' associations, women's groups and institutes of higher learning.

Workshop on Sarawak Rural Economic Transformation

Sunset Ballroom, Damai Beach Resort

The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture and Rural Economy (MOARE). A total of 8 papers were presented in the general session and 34 papers in the 8 parallel sessions namely on plantations, commodity crops, food crops, livestock, fishery, rural industry, non-agriculture businesses and rural capacity building.

The objectives of the workshop were to obtain a clearer understanding of critical issues and factors affecting rural economic transformation in the State; to identify key commodities, industries and economic activities that can drive rural economic transformation in the State; to evaluate and adapt existing development models and approaches that are suitable for immediate adoption; and to develop the framework for new development models that can accelerate rural economic transformation in the State.

In his keynote address, Deputy Chief Minister, YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas highlighted the need for a change in mindset among players including policy makers, planners, implementers, business community and the target groups. He opined that during the early stages, the role of leadership at all levels is to initiate, drive and sustain the transformation. And that the responsibility for leadership falls not only on the ministers, but also assistant ministers, permanent secretaries, directors and divisional and sectional heads.

Transformation also needs to be grounded in innovation and creativity and the key players need to be open-minded to new ideas from multiple sources. They need to look beyond the confines of their own experience, and they should have the ability to critically analyse and rationalise available options towards the achievement of set goals.

In the output from the workshop, the participants were able to propose basic development models for their respective groups under the different themes. However, these development models and approaches still need to be refined further. There are still gaps in terms of how the models can transform the rural development landscape by attracting the private sector to invest as well as engaging the local community in these commercial agricultural projects and programmes.



14

September 2016

20th Annual General Meeting

Sadong Room, Grand Margherita Hotel, Kuching

The 20th Annual General Meeting was attended by 29 members with 15 proxies. In the absence of the Board Chairman and Deputy Chairman of SDI, the Meeting appointed YBhg. Datu Jaul Samion, Board Director, to chair the proceedings. YBhg. Datu Jaul called the meeting to order at 3.00 pm and welcomed all members present to the meeting. He also extended the apology of the Chairman, YB Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Morshidi Bin Abdul Ghani, who had to attend another function. A number of matters were brought up and discussed at the meeting which ended at 4.55 p.m.



In collaboration with Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak



Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak

19

February 2016

MakanMakan Chinese New Year

The BanQuet

The MakanMakan Chinese New Year was organised with support from the Federation of Chinese Associations. About 250 people comprising young people from schools and higher learning institutions, community associations, members of the media and public attended the dinner where various customs and traditional practices of the Chinese during Chinese New Year were shared. The info-graphics produced for the event highlighted a number of cultural practices and the dishes served during Chinese New Year, and their meanings.



18

June 2016

MakanMakan Gawai

DBNA Hall

With support from the Dayak Bidayuh National Association, Sarawak Dayak National Union, Majlis Adat Istiadat, and Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture Sarawak. MakanMakan Gawai showcased the traditional food of the Bidayuh community and the ceremonial activities of the Iban such as *miring*, *ranyai* and *ngiling tikai*. The event was attended by about 200 people comprising youth from institutions of higher learning, community associations, bloggers and media members, as well as members of the public. Both halal and non halal menus were served. A dedicated venue was prepared for Muslim guests to break their fast prior to the start of the event as it was fasting month. About 30 Muslims participated in the event. The event was graced by YB Dato Sri Michael Manyin ak Jawong, Minister of Youth and Sports and Solidarity.



6 August 2016

Makanmakan Raya Aidilfitri HIKMAH Hall

The evening was attended by almost 100 guests of all ethnicities from institutions of higher learning, community associations, government agencies, and members of the public. To add to the festive mood, the guest of honour, YBhg. Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Abdul Aziz Haji Husain, Chairman of HIKMAH beat the beduk to kick off the event. Authentic Malay cuisines like *lemang*, *kuih bahulu*, *sekaya*, *bubur pedas*, *burasak* and *kuih sanggul banaa*, *nasi minyak*, chicken curry, beef rendang, *daging masak hitam*, chicken and beef satay, *keceri nanas*, *ketupat*, *kelupis*, and *kek hati parek* were served accompanied by explanations by the experts from Amanah Khairat Yayasan Budaya Melayu. A ketupat weaving demonstration was also included in the program.

20 November 2016

MakanMakan Deepavali Indian Association Kuching Hall

MakanMakan Deepavali 2016 was attended by 150 guests and featured North Indian cuisines to complement the South Indian cuisines which were featured in the inaugural MakanMakan series in 2015. The cuisines served consisted of butter *naan*, *palak paneer* (curried spinach with cheese), tandoori chicken, *biryani*, mutton *vindaloo* (spiced vinegar mutton), *baingan masala* (spiced brinjal), butter chicken, *aloo gobi*, *chai masala* (spiced tea), and *kheer* (milky rice pudding). Mr. Balachandran Annamalai, an Indian food expert from the Batu Lintang Teachers' Training Institute explained the history and cultural significance of each dish when the dishes were served. The guests were also entertained with traditional Indian drums and dance performances, and tried out henna tattooing. The event was also supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture, Indian Association of Kuching, Momentum KCH, Ceylonese Restaurant, Supermain, Kuching-rental and other organizations.

8 April 2016

Sup4Good ChinaHouse

Sup4Good is a casual dinner aimed at crowdfunding for local community development programs. Inspired by Detroit Soup, this project seeks to promote community based development through an inclusive social platform dedicated to empowering local initiatives and projects through community sourced micro-grants and supporting them via established entrepreneurial and social-entrepreneurial organizations.

The format of Sup4Good is for all guests to donate a minimum amount of money and they will be eligible to vote for one project that they wish to fund. After listening to the pitches, the guests were provided with soups for dinner. The voting was then done where the project with the most votes won the money collected from the guests. 4 projects were pitched and they were on donating rice packs for charity organisations, composting food waste among the rural communities, facelift Salvation Army Boys' Home, and training disabled children to become artisans. The project on composting food waste won the money collected from the guests. The event was organised by The Champions and sponsored by YPS.



EMPOWERMENT SERIES

7

14

June / September 2016

Waste & Our Generation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak
Waste & Our Generation, Swinburne University of Technology

These empowerment series seek to equip the university students with the knowledge and information on waste management in Kuching and Sarawak as a whole. Among the activities conducted with the students was waste auditing to understand the types of wastes generated at the respective university. This project aims to engage the students further by volunteering for environmental related projects happening in the city. The ES at UNIMAS was attended by 40 students while another 30 comprising students and lecturers attended the session at the Swinburne University of Technology. The Champions collaborated with Trienekens Sarawak for the information sharing on waste management in the State and also on waste auditing for the waste generated within the university campus.

22-25

September 2016

Camp United 2016

Kem Bina Negara Sampadi, Lundu

The 2nd Camp United held over 3½ days was participated by about 80 youth from local colleges and universities comprising 13 international students from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Egypt. The rest were from Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia. The objective of the camp was to build inspired, passionate communities of empowered young leaders who know the significance of their role in community, and are willing to take action to contribute back to society, as in the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt, "One cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future".

The camp programmes consisted of both mentally and physically challenging outdoor and indoor activities exposing participants to the spirit of teambuilding, building trust, respect and acceptance of fellow members, instilling leadership, the need for constant communication and bonding, leading to strengthening the seeds of unity. There were also discussion sessions conducted in the evening centred on the theme of communication and unity. The facilitators for the sessions were Mr. Bernard Goh, Perdana Fellow to the Deputy Prime Minister Malaysia and Mr. Ralph Balan, Communication Officer with the Sarawak Communication for Development Centre, SDI. The highlight of the camp was a dialogue session between His Excellency the Governor of Sarawak, Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud with the camp participants.



RESEARCHES

1

Sarawak Social Trends Report 2005 – 2015

In December 2016, SDI was commissioned by the Social Development Council (SDC), Ministry of Women, Welfare and Community Wellbeing to conduct a study on Sarawak Social Trends Report 2005-2015. A trend analysis is a branch of statistical analysis which attempts to identify a pattern or trend in a time series which normally will not be seen or identified easily. Social trends have proven to be useful in many instances, particularly in providing indications of certain conditions such as social, economic, health, and environment. They have also been known to be widely used in gauging quality of life and social well-being of a society.

The SDC published the first series of the Social Trends Report 2005-2010 in 2012. The purpose of publishing the series report was to simply provide a 'snapshot' of the general and social issues prevailing in Sarawak over the period by using secondary data. A simple social analysis of each issue was also made based on the observed trends as well as information obtained from the media and internet. There is, therefore, a need for a comprehensive and holistic analysis of Social Trends in Sarawak between the period of 2005-2015 to provide the State with an evidence-based reference for further policy planning and action.

The main purpose of the study is to provide a 'snapshot' and the big picture of the general and social issues prevailing in Sarawak in the past eleven (11) years as well as an analysis of the issues identified as major concerns. Besides providing a situational description and analysis on the social trends, the study will also attempt to identify emerging social issues that may have impacts on all relevant stakeholders and thus need to be addressed, to provide empirical evidence for further policy planning and action, and to identify key issues, weaknesses and gaps in social policy, and finally to recommend best practices for implementation.

The study is to be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 is a desk-study which will only analyse data on social indicators that have been collected by the SDC over the last decade (2005-2015), and other relevant social indicators collected by other agencies but made available by SDC in a format ready for analysis. The comprehensiveness of the analysis will therefore be limited by the quality of the data that will be provided by SDC.

Key problems and issues identified in Phase 1 will be used as a basis for Phase 2 which will involve interviewing policy-makers and/or implementers, enforcers, partakers as well as the general public who are directly impacted by them.

The study is expected to be completed in twelve (12) months.

2

Impact Study of 1Azam Programme in Sarawak

1Azam programme was first implemented in Sarawak during the 10th Malaysia Plan (2011-2015). The activities of 1Azam are concentrated in four sectors – agriculture (Azam Tani), small-service industry (Azam Khidmat), entrepreneurship (Azam Niaga), and work placements (Azam Kerja). According to the Ministry of Women, Welfare and Community Wellbeing (MWWCW), Sarawak, the achievement of the programme has been encouraging. Based on *e-Kasih* statistics as of 15 February 2016, a total of 38,942 heads of households have been successfully given the assistance compared to the targeted number (38,400 households).

However, since its inception, no proper evaluation has been conducted regarding 1Azam's performance. Internal evaluations are regularly done by the relevant agencies such as the Department of Agriculture Sarawak but these activities are limited to the monitoring of the participants' incomes over a period of time (monthly or by season). It is thus timely for a process and post evaluation study to be carried out to assess the operation of the programme.

Thus, in 2016 SDI proposed to MWWCW an evaluation study on the impact of the 1Azam programme in Sarawak. The proposal paper was approved and is currently awaiting a memorandum of study agreement to be finalised by the ministry and the relevant agency.

The main aim of the study is to examine the impact of the 1Azam programme on the participants and has the following specific objectives; a) to develop and examine the socio-economic profile of the participants; b) to identify the impact of the programme to the participants in terms of changes in their income status and skills, and knowledge on managing their economic activities; c) to identify the issues and challenges faced by the participants; d) to investigate the problems/challenges faced by the relevant agencies in planning, coordinating, implementing and monitoring of the programme; and e) to recommend strategies and a workable action plan for possible policy review in order to increase the effectiveness/sustainability of the intervention programme. The study will cover the co-ordinating and implementing agencies and participants of the 1Azam programme in Sarawak, and is expected to be completed in twelve months.

It is expected that the findings of the study will be rather useful for planners and implementers to review their current operational approaches and implementation of the programme to ensure their efficacy and effectiveness.

3

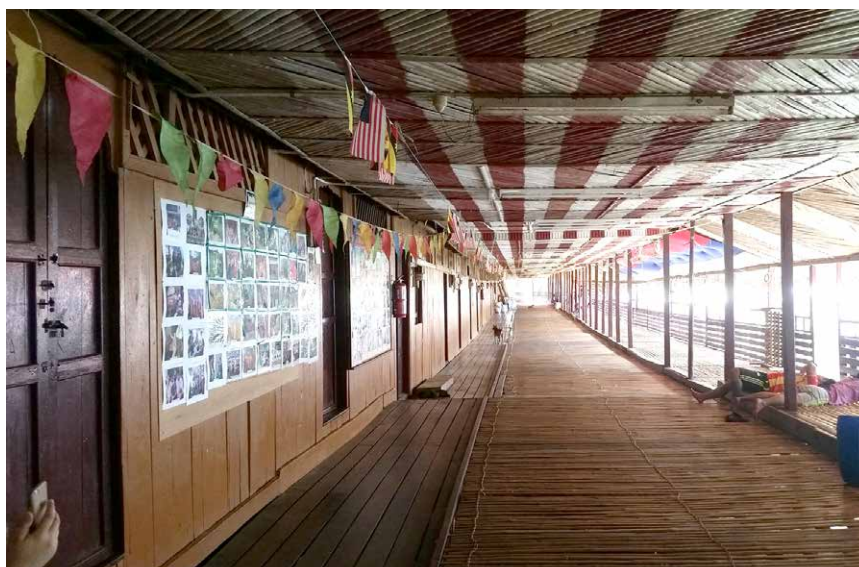
An Exploratory Study on the Urban Poor with Disabled Family Members in Kuching, Sarawak

In July 2016, SDI submitted the proposal to conduct an exploratory study on the urban poor with disabled family members in Kuching to the State Planning Unit, Chief Minister's Department, Sarawak. SPU agreed to provide funding for the study and would look into the necessary procedures to initiate the study.

In Sarawak, the disabled makes up almost 10 per cent of the total country's disabled population with over 31,000 successfully registered as of October 2012. It is difficult to know how many poor households have disabled members in Malaysia as not much have been studied about it. Noting that poverty and disability are closely linked, they need to be systematically examined. In the western world, studies have been done to look at the impact of disability on educational achievement and income, and on the adequacy and equity of government programmes, with emphasis on removing barriers and increasing the participation of disabled people. The dismal amount of information about disability in the developing world on the other hand has forced researchers to rely heavily on anecdotal evidence and focused on what is generally known about health, disabilities, poverty and vulnerable population.

Therefore, the proposed study will explore the issues related to poor households with disabled family members such as under-reporting and associated problems, and thereafter suggest the way forward to improve their livelihood. The main aim of the study is to identify and examine the problems faced by poor households with disabled members in Kuching to enable the relevant authorities to improve their current policies, strategies and action plans in order to effectively address the problems associated with this target group.

Specifically, the study will attempt, a) to examine the profile of households with disabled members, and whether they are registered with government institutions such as State Welfare Department, the Federal *e-Kasih* system, private institutions or relevant NGOs



such as the Sarawak Society of the Disabled; b) to compare, relate and give simplified definitions of the two terms (poverty and disability) for operational purposes of this study with reference to the Malaysian and international contexts; c) to identify the types of disabilities of the disabled members of the households; d) to investigate whether they are involved in any rehabilitative programmes by Government, private sector as well as NGOs for the disabled member; e) to examine the disabled members' access to education and training, healthcare, employment and entrepreneurship, housing, information or ICT, sports facilities, assistance and other support services as required by law; f) to explore the problems and discriminations faced by the disabled and their households including their coping mechanism in caring for the disabled members; g) to study the impact of the disabled member on the economic status of the household; h) to assess the role of the relevant Government authorities, private sector and NGOs especially the Ministry of Women, Welfare and Community Wellbeing, Women and Family Development as well as the State Welfare Department, and their efficiency and effectiveness in providing assistance to the disabled and their care providers; and i) to recommend future work based on the findings of the Study.

The study is expected to be completed in 9 calendar months and covering only Kuching Division.



4

Compilation Report on Social Transformation Framework for Sarawak

The main objectives of the project is to compile a comprehensive Sarawak Social Transformation Framework Report and to recommend an action plan for the implementation structure at the divisional and state level for social transformation. The project was commissioned by the Social Development Council (SDC), Ministry of Women, Welfare and Community Wellbeing and commenced in August 2016. It was completed in 3 months.

SDI worked with a consultant to compile the outcomes from two workshops, a conference and roundtables on Social Transformation Framework which were conducted by the Social Development Council in 2014 and 2016. The Social Transformation Framework comprises 10 pillars as follows: Family Institution; Housing; Social Harmony; Public Safety; Social Responsibility; Social Space and Infrastructure; Environmental Security; Social and Health Protection; Capacity Building; and Good Governance. Each pillar has its scope and objectives including identification of key issues and strategies for action and agencies responsible.

The State Social Transformation Framework thus provides a guiding framework to better coordinate, integrate, and improve policies and programmes to ensure people's wellbeing. It works to balance and connect people development with economic development. Among others, the report made recommendations to create a new operational structure for effective reporting and monitoring of the implementation of Social Transformation programme at the state level; address policy gaps or realign existing related policies in dealing with issues which cut across agencies; integrate programmes and activities for greater effectiveness and outcomes at the divisional and state levels; and connect, engage and empower citizens in partnership with government through collaborative, dynamic and integrated governance to develop community's sense of ownership and self-help in implementing programmes and activities.



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